

## EUROPE ENDEAVORING TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE

Great Efforts Being Made to Secure an Adequate Cotton Supply Elsewhere Than in America—Interesting Report to Department of Commerce and Labor.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 23.—The efforts which Europe is making to get her cotton supply from other countries, and shake off the rule of America in the trade, is the subject of an important and interesting report to the Department of Commerce and Labor by United States Consul Monaghan at Chemnitz, Germany. The report was made public today, and is found to attract the attention of cotton planters generally throughout the Southern States.

Consul Monaghan says that should this movement to introduce the culture of cotton into the expansive tropical colonies of the world continue—and that there is no reason why it should not—it will have a profound effect upon the cotton-growing industry of the United States. Colonial cotton culture, he says, is at present being promoted by all European countries with such activity and on such a basis of such thorough and scientific methods that much is to be expected from it. In England, Germany and France there are associations formed for the purpose of encouraging the culture of cotton in colonial and intertropical countries.

### TO SECURE INDEPENDENCE.

The avowed aim of all such associations is to secure the independence of European manufacturers from the American cotton supply. The European cotton spinning and weaving industries have been repeatedly more or less injured through their absolute dependence upon American cotton. For this reason sentiment is strongly in favor of an independent colonial cotton supply, and the day when it is accomplished, it ever it can be accomplished, will undoubtedly be hailed pretty much like a liberation from bondage. The report continues:

"The recent history of cotton prices well demonstrates the instability of quotations, the extreme sensibility of the market, and the disastrous fluctuations from week to week—at times, even, from day to day. Wild, zigzag figures represent the movement of the market. Just as the accidental discharge of a toy pis-

tol may create a panic and a mob, so purely accidental occurrences upon the cotton market will send prices jumping up or down. Rumor may have it that New York is approaching financial difficulties, and straightway cotton goes down. Some one may circulate a 'suspicion' that the estimated supply at Galveston may, upon revision, prove 40,000 or 50,000 bales short, and straightway the market strengthens. The rise and fall of the Mississippi makes the European cotton market a victim of the caprice of nature and a plaything of the waves. From England, Germany, everywhere, come reports of the wild, vexatious jumpings of cotton prices. That such sensibility and uncontrollable turbulence is fraught with disastrous results for the European cotton manufacturer requires no demonstration.

**SUPPLY DECREASING.**  
"Moreover, certain forces have been operating during the course of recent years to increase the dependence of Europe upon the cotton crop of the United States. This has more strongly than ever impressed upon the trans-oceanic cotton manufacturer the value and necessity of an independent cotton supply, which to-day is finding its expression in a general and concerted movement in favor of the development of colonial cotton culture. The cotton supply of Europe has been decreasing. The United States and India have been consuming increasing quantities of their own crops, while the discovery of the process of mercerization has taxed the supply of Egyptian cotton for this industry and has withdrawn it to this extent from the ordinary cotton-manufacturing industry. The gap had to be filled, as far as possible, from the United States; and it would appear that unless Europe can open up a new source of supply she must ever become more dependent upon the American cotton crop. In view of the fact that the United States is consuming a rapidly increasing share of her own crop, the European cotton-manufacturing industry would be placed in a rather peculiar situation in case the attempt at colonial cotton culture should fail in its expectations."

## AMERICAN APPLE CAPTURES MARKET OF GERMAN EMPIRE

United States Consul-General Mason, at Berlin, thinks Germans Will Not Recapture Market if American Fruit Maintains its High Standard.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 23.—The American apple has about captured the German market, according to a report to the Department of Commerce and Labor by United States Consul-General Mason, at Berlin. What is more, the consul general thinks that the market will never be regained by the Germans if the Americans continue to ship as good fruit as they are now doing, and pay as great care to getting it to the customer in good condition. I quoted Dr. Galloway, chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture, in this connection some days ago to the effect that Virginia was practically the only State in the Union in which there was anything like a full crop of apples this year, and that Virginia's was thought to be the largest ever marketed. So it must be that a great many of the apples which the Germans are eating this winter were grown in Virginia orchards. Following are some extracts from the report:

Under the familiar headline, "Another American Danger," the agrarian and conservative press in Germany is commenting somewhat demurely on the unprecedented influx of American apples this season and the extent to which they have filled and dominated all the more important markets in this country. It is not a fruit store or hardly a market fruit stall or retail grocery shop in Berlin or its suburbs that does not display as a prime attraction one or more barrels of Baldwin, pippins, or other standard varieties, surrounded by a placard bearing the legend, "Rechte Amerikaner." Not only this, but wagons piled with the same attractive merchandise patrol the outlying streets and peddle the American fruit at the uncommonly low price of 20 pfennings (5 cents) per pound. This, at a time when ordinary cooking apples grown in Germany and Austria retail for from 8 to 7 cents per pound, has furnished an object lesson of comparative cost, quality and flavor as between the American and European fruit which cannot be misunderstood or ignored. The dimensions to which this special import has grown will be indicated by the fact that only a few days ago the steamship

Main, of the North German Lloyd line, landed at Bremen 22,929 barrels and 1,540 boxes of American apples, which is said to be the largest fruit cargo ever carried across the Atlantic in a single vessel.

### CARE IN SHIPMENT.

From all accounts and the appearance of the American apples displayed here in markets and stores, they have generally arrived in excellent condition, showing not only that they are from a sound crop of good quality, but that American fruit growers and dealers have greatly improved their methods of picking and packing for export. The point is proven that, given a good, sound apple crop in the United States, the standard varieties can be exported with entire safety in ordinary ventilated barrels without any of the elaborate and more or less costly paper wrappings that are used in putting up apples of choice quality from France, Italy and the Tyrol. This, in view of the high cost of hand labor in America, is a point of great economic advantage, but it does not in the least modify the absolute necessity of careful hand-picking, assorting and putting while dry into barrels with such care that all bruising and contusions are avoided. Much is also doubtless due to shipping in properly cool and ventilated steamers, instead of the hot, stuffy holds of slow sailing ships, piled with other freight and with hatches battened down from port to port.

**POSITION OF THE PRESS.**  
The general tenor of agrarian press comment on the present Yankee apple invasion is that it proves the inadequacy both of the German home-grown fruit supply and of the existing import duty rate to protect the farmers of the Fatherland from this foreign competition. To this is usually added the fervent hope that these colossal importations will not result in filling the orchards of Germany with the San Jose scale.

The fear is gravely expressed that not even the German inspectors can scrutinize such cargoes of apples as are now coming with sufficient minuteness to prevent an occasional "Schlidia" from escaping, and this, notwithstanding the assurance of German authorities that the San Jose scale can never thrive and reproduce in the climate of Germany, con-

tinues to inspire apprehension in certain quarters.

The facts are simply that, with the exception of a few favored localities, Germany is, for climatic reasons, not well adapted to the growth of high-grade apples; that horticulturists here have been strangely negligent and have permitted their orchards in many cases to degenerate into groups of old trees bearing poor, natural fruit, tough in fibre and of indifferent flavor; that the superior, crisp tenderness and aromatic taste of the American apples, combined with cheapness of price, are now so well known and highly appreciated that the home market can never be reconquered, if at all, until new orchards of carefully selected and grafted varieties can be grown and brought into bearing. Even then there will be seasons so humid and deficient in sunshine as to make the competition difficult for the German farmer.

Official statistics show that in 1900, Germany imported 124,874 tons of fresh apples; in 1901, 118,233 tons; and in 1902, 112,655 tons—of which the United States supplied 1,700 tons, 1,922 tons, and 6,335 tons, respectively. This year the American contribution will far surpass that of any previous season, but it will be after all only a small fraction—probably not more than 8 or 10 per cent—of the aggregate imports into Germany. There is, therefore, and will always be, abundant room for expansion in this branch of American exports to Germany. Not for a generation to come, if ever, can the native-grown supply be expanded and improved to meet the steadily growing demand. The advantages of superior quality and generally lower price, the hereditary possession of a fertile soil and genial climate, will be permanent factors in the vigorous American fruit trade. If the trade is vigorously pushed and judiciously managed, the tendency of our fresh fruit exports will be to replace more and more the vast quantities of apples that are now imported from Switzerland, Austria, Holland and Italy.

### LETTER BY WASHINGTON.

Thanked New York Legislature for Message of Congratulation.

An Albany special says Deputy Controller Willis E. Merriman has just found in an old record a letter sent by George Washington to the Legislature of this State in 1790.

When Gen. Washington came from his estate in Virginia in 1790 to live in New York City as President of the United States, the Legislature at Albany sent him an address of congratulation and neighborly sentiments.

His reply reads: "Gentlemen: The affectionate congratulations of so responsible a public body as the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of New York on my election to the Presidency of the United States fill my breast with the most pleasing sensations."

"In the fortitude and perseverance of the citizens of this State, even amidst the calamities and dangers with which they were surrounded in the late war, I found a resource which it always gave me pleasure to acknowledge in the strongest and most grateful terms. I may also be permitted to add the satisfaction I experienced in referring to the enjoyments of domestic life was greatly enhanced by a reflection that their public virtue had been finally crowned with complete success."

"I am now truly happy that my motives for resuming the arduous duties of a public station have met with your approbation. And at the same time I entreat you will be persuaded that nothing could be better calculated to encourage me to hope for prosperity in the execution of the duties of my office than the assurance you have given of the favorable sentiments and expectations of the freemen of your State."

"I request, gentlemen, that you will accept of my best thanks for your polite intimation that you will do everything in your power to make my residence in your State agreeable, as well as for your patriotic promise of being always ready to afford your united aid and support."

"GEORGE WASHINGTON."

## FARMER'S FIERCE FIGHT WITH WILDCAT

Animal Battered to Death With Gun After Doing Some Bloody Work.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

BLOOMSBURG, PA., Jan. 20.—John Hons, a Scotch Valley farmer, had a fierce battle with a catamount on the Nesquehanna Mountain, and killed it only after a hard struggle.

Hons was fox hunting when his dogs came upon the catamount. One of the dogs was killed at once and the cat leaped upon the other when Hons turned upon the man, and jumping on his shoulder, tore the clothing from it and clamped him severely. "Tearing the animal loose, he struck it with the gun, breaking the weapon off at the stock. The catamount again leaped upon his breast in an effort to reach his throat, but he at last succeeded in freeing himself and killed the animal with the gun barrel. The catamount, from its nose to its tail tip, measured six feet, and is the largest killed in this section in recent years."

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# Our First Anniversary .: :: With a Ten-Day Sale.

**MONDAY**, the last day of our Ten-Day Anniversary Sale, will be another illustration of the mercantile mastery of buying and selling for cash. Enough goods, we think, for everybody, but if the selling is as big as it has been for the last six days of this sale we doubt if they will last through the day. Come early and be among the first, and get some of the sacrificed merchandise at prices you never dreamed possible.

### Our Anniversary Sale Men's Underwear.

Shirts and Drawers that are all half wool, cut from 75c. 50c  
Shirts and Drawers that are three-quarters wool, cut from \$1.00 75c  
Shirts and Drawers, fine, soft wool, in white and gray, cut from \$1.50 98c

### Our Anniversary Sale of Muslin Underwear.

No doubt you have heard of the great bargains we sold last week in this department, but Monday you will find some other lots that are still more astonishing.

How does this show for the first bargain? A 10c. Corset Cover for 12 1/2c  
A lot of Corset Covers that are slightly soiled, which are worth 25c, but this sale makes 19c  
Shirts, Corset Covers and Gowns, that are cheap at 50c, for 39c  
Gowns, Skirts, Drawers and Corset Covers, that are made well and trimmed nicely, will be marked 48c  
A new line of Drawers, Skirts, Corset Covers and Gowns, that were shipped by mistake. Rather than have them return, the manufacturer made us a special price. The difference you gain. They are worth \$1.00 to \$1.25, for 89c

### Anniversary Sale of Dress Goods.

A small lot of 50c. Black Dress Goods, about 250 yards, bought at a remarkably low price, which we will sell on Monday at 15c  
Dress Materials, in several colors, that we sold at 25c, but our anniversary sale price, which closes Tuesday night, will be 15c  
Habit Cloth, 50 inches wide, our regular 48c. quality, 37 1/2c  
Prunella, Melrose and several other good fabrics, the regular price is 75c; our anniversary price is 59c

### Anniversary Sale of Silks.

Black Taffeta, was 30c. 25c  
Colored Taffeta, was 50c. 39c  
Black Taffeta, was 75c. 59c

### Anniversary Sale Sheets and Sheeting.

Pillow Cases, large size, never sold for less than 15c, for 8c  
Pillow Cases that sold from 12 1/2c to 15c, for 11c  
Sheeting, 2-1-4 yards wide, bleached, and worth 22c, for 16c  
Sheets, made of good cotton, nicely made, 2-1-4 by 2-1-2 yards long, and worth 55c, for 43c

### Anniversary Coat Price.

Short and Long Coats, that sold from \$10.00 to \$15.00, will be closed out Monday at \$3.98

### Our Anniversary Sale of Laces and Embroideries

has been the talk of town as being the greatest bargains ever bought, and they are without a doubt. Just listen:  
Laces, narrow and wide, fine and heavy, that are worth 5c, for 3c  
Laces that are sold for 10c; that is, a good many patterns; we had to buy a large quantity to sell them at 5c  
Embroidery, fine, cambric, with showy, durable work, worth 7c, for 5c  
In the second lot you will find open edges as well as blind work, all made on fine cambric and nainsook; made to sell at 15c; our price 9 1/2c  
Is 15c for 12 1/2c

### Anniversary Sale of Spring Fabrics.

Dress Gingham, in stripes and checks, all colors, that are sold everywhere at 12-1-2c, special 9 1/2c  
English Bourrette, 32 inches wide, and never sold for less than 15c; our Monday price is 11 1/2c  
Gauze Bourrette, the newest spring fabric, and looks like it 12 1/2c  
Madras, figured, white ground, with colored stripes, that never sold for less than 30c; for Monday 19c

### Our Anniversary Sale of Remnants.

Some of the greatest bargains we have ever seen, and you will think the same when you see them.  
Remnants of Table Damask, in 2-1-2 yard lengths, that are the greatest wonders ever offered.  
Remnants of Dress Goods and Silks, in lengths suitable for waists, skirts and dresses, which we will give 15 per cent off the remnant price, which is already much under the original price.

Chambray, in plain colors, guaranteed Indian dye, will not fade, worth 12-1-2c, for 47 1/2c  
Unbleached Cotton, a fine, even thread, and worth 5c, for 2 1/2c  
Unbleached Cotton, 36 inches wide, extra heavy and worth 7c, for 47 1/2c  
Percales, 36 inches wide, and new spring patterns, that are worth 12-1-2c, in full prices 47 1/2c  
Oxford, white grounds, with dots and figures, that are worth 15c, for 63 1/2c  
Duck, black and blue, with dots, never sold for less than 10c, for 63 1/2c

### Our Anniversary Sale of White Goods

is full of all the best things, at prices that are really astonishing.  
Checked Nainsook, 36 inches wide, and worth 8-1-2c, for 5c  
Checked Nainsooks, that are very scarce; they are in small and broken checks, and worth 10c, for 8 1/2c  
Pique, medium wale, soft finish, and worth 12-1-2c, for 9 1/2c  
Another Pique, that is still a greater bargain, narrow wale and worth 15c, for 11 1/2c  
Long Cloth, fine quality, nicely finished, worth 12-1-2c, for 10c  
Piques, small figures, soft finish, a regular 10c. quality, for 12 1/2c  
Lady Cloth; this is a cloth that is just between a Long Cloth and a Nainsook, for 12 1/2c  
English Nainsook, light weight, and, we think, a great bargain at 12 1/2c

### Anniversary Cut Prices.

Suits and Furs; some of the very best pieces; price cut almost half in two to clear them out Monday.

### Just Two Specials in Ribbons.

Black and Colored Taffeta, No. 80, that we bought a large quantity of to give our customers as good value as they ever saw at 25c. 19c  
And the other is No. 40, in black and colors, that never sold for 12 1/2c

### Anniversary Sale of Skirts.

Mercerized Skirt, with the new waist fastener; no draw strings, and made of fine quality material; worth \$1.25, for 98c  
A Walking Skirt, that has been one of our best sellers, and worth \$2.25, for \$2.25  
A Walking Skirt, in black and Oxford, strap seams, stole effect, trimmed in buttons, worth \$5.00, for \$3.98 for Monday at 3.98

### Anniversary Sale of Hosiery.

Men's Hosiery, in gray and black, for 5c  
Men's Hosiery, in same colors, extra heavy, for 8c  
Ladies' Hosiery, a genuine bargain, at 5c  
Ladies' Hosiery, worth 12 1/2c, for 10c  
Ladies' Hosiery, exceptional value 12 1/2c  
Children's Hosiery, a regular 12 1/2c. number, at 10c

### Anniversary Sale of Ready-Made Waists.

Oxford and Madras Waists, that sold at \$1.25, special Monday 98c  
Madras and Oxford Waists, plain and figured, that sold for \$1.48 and \$1.50, for \$1.48  
Silk Waists, in small sizes, black and colors; just a few of them; they were good sellers at \$5.00, but to clear them out quickly, \$3.98  
Another lot of Silk Waists, stylishly trimmed, in several colors, that sold at \$10.00 and \$12.50, for \$5.98

## POTATO CULTURE IN EMPIRE OF CZAR OF ALL THE RUSSIAS

The Tuber is as Much the Staple of Diet There as in Ireland—Some Details of its Cultivation in the Czar's Dominions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 23.—The

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

Russian's qualities as a soldier are just now being much discussed, and it is adding to the list of his many virtues. He is on the firing line, but United States Consul Slocum, writing to the Department of Commerce and Labor from his post at Warsaw, does not think much of them as potato raisers, and urges that American manufacturers cultivate that field for trade.

Incidentally, the consul directs attention to the fact that the potato is as much the staple of diet in Russia as it is in Ireland itself, and that much whiskey is made from the tubers. One dares not imagine the strength of the article of drink of which potatoes is the basis.

Mr. Slocum gives some details of the method of culture by the farmers of Russia, which will be of interest to the farmers of the United States. Potatoes are planted in Russia and Russian Poland during the month of April and sometimes as late as May 10th. Two methods are employed: (1) In squares from twenty to twenty-four inches, the average being twenty-two inches, which are cultivated in both directions; and (2) in rows of twenty to twenty-four inches wide, and from twelve to twenty-two inches apart, cultivated in one direction.

### DIGGING MACHINE.

Labor being much more difficult to obtain in September and October, the more particular needs of the farmer are machines for digging purposes, as the season for such work is from September 15th to October 15th.

The rows are always ridged up and the potatoes are planted about four inches deep.

The machines in general use here is an implement for making three furrows in which there could be no competition from the American manufacturer, owing to the low cost of those made here.

One of the machines in use here is an implement for making three furrows in which there could be no competition from the American manufacturer, owing to the low cost of those made here.

Implement is of native manufacture,

weighs about one hundred and sixty pounds, and is drawn by two horses. It

scars at retail here for 22 rubles (\$1.33). After the potatoes have been laid in the furrows they are covered and killed by another implement of native manufacture, drawn by one horse, which

talis for from 7 to 10 rubles (\$3.61 to \$5.00). One horse hoe is used for cultivating the potatoes.

For some time there have been efforts made by German manufacturers to introduce machinery for planting, cultivating and digging potatoes, among which was a machine for digging holes. This machine consists of four rows of spades, each having six spades, the distance between the stars and the distance between the spades being adjustable to suit the different requirements of the farmers. In the holes made by these machines potatoes are put by hand, the people being necessary to do this work. The depth of the hole made is also adjustable to the kind of soil.

The hole digging machine is followed by a four row disk covering machine, which covers the potatoes and ridges them up. This same machine is also found useful as a weed destroyer. It has another advantage, in that it covers potatoes planted on fresh stable manure, without dragging the manure from the ground.

Both machines weigh nearly the same, about 340 pounds, and sell in Germany for the same figure—30 marks (about \$1.40).

The diggers used in this country are nearly exclusively of German make, and of the "Muenster" pattern (more or less modified).

**FAR FROM PERFECT.**  
These potato diggers are far from being perfect, but they are the best known. The privilege diggers, even of American make, have been frequently tried here, but without success. One of the enterprising Warsaw dealers in machinery tried to introduce American potato diggers into this market, but his efforts were discouraged, because the American manufacturer with whom he dealt failed to make the required alterations in his machines or to adapt them to the local method of raising potatoes.

The American manufacturer cannot afford to neglect a field which promises so rich a reward for his effort, particularly when one considers that potato forms almost the sole food of the working classes in

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Russia, and supply also a large part of

the income of the farmers who grow

them for sale to the distilleries. The

present year has been an exceptionally poor

one; but the totals from the ten districts

of Poland for the years 1899, 1900, 1901-

1902, 6,142,825, 8,891,028, 7,838,235 tons-show

conclusively the extent of the industry

and furnish a rough estimate of the

acreage under cultivation.

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